Bihar and West Bengal are endemic for Kala-azar. As per reports received from the State Health authorities, the number of cases reported during current year are as under:—

Bihar . . .	5191
West Bengal . . .	1456

(c) Since Kala-azar is confined to a few States only, no nation-wide Programme has been so far launched. However, the Dte. NMEP is monitoring the incidence of Kala-azar in the country based on the reports submitted by States/Union Territories. The Dte. NMEP/NICD are also rendering technical guidance to States to control the disease and other remedial measures which includes house to house case finding, entomological studies training programmes, insecticidal spray etc. are being undertaken.

(d) No separate funds are available for Kala-azar control. However, required quantities of insecticides for Kala-azar control are supplied to States out of NMEP budget on 50:50 cost sharing basis between States and Central Government.

Death of infants by oral application of non-essential drugs

266. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY
SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to report which appeared in the 'Indian Express' of 28th September, 1986 to the effect that non-essential drugs kill 1.5 million infants;

(b) what action has been taken by Government to avoid large scale death of infants by the oral application of non-essential drugs; and

(c) whether Government propose to ban these non-essential drugs which are use-less, hazardous and counter productive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government is not aware of any authentic evidence that 1.5 million infants have died due to consumption of non-essential drugs as stated in the Press report.

(c) There is no mention of any specific drug which has caused death of infants, in the press report. As such the Question of banning 'these' drugs does not arise.

266. [*Transferred to the 14th November*, 1986.]

Deaths caused by Measles

267. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI TALARI MANOHAR:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item that appeared in the 'Times of India' dated the 10th October, 1986 according to which measles has caused 18 deaths in Himachal Pradesh; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that despite widespread recurrence of measles, no serious effort has been made to develop anti-measles vaccine in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Department of Biotechnology is shortly going to decide upon the process technology for production of measles vaccine. It is expected that the indigenous production of this vaccine would start during the Seventh Five Year Plan.